

MINUTES OF RESIDENTS & COMMUNITY FORUM MEETING

Venue: GAVCA, 75-81 Eastgate Street Gloucester

Wednesday 27th January 2009

Present	Residents & Community - Board Members	
	Sally Pickering (SP)	GHURC Board Member (Chair)
	David Bush (DB)	GHURC Board Member (Vice-Chair)
	Mary Smith (MS)	GHURC Board Member
Present	Residents & Community Forum – Members and Observers	
	Adele Owen (AO)	Ian Ellis (IE)
	Barry Leach (BLe)	Jenny Lapington (JL)
	Bryan Lyall (BL)	John Price (JP)
	Dennis Collins (DC)	Philip Lowery (PL)
	Mavis Wall (MWa)	
GHURC	Martin Wallace (MW)	GHURC
	Chris Oldershaw (CFO)	GHURC
	Richard Owen (RO)	GHURC
	Paul Erskine (PE)	GHURC
Guests	James Dorer (JD)	Gloucestershire County Council

Refs.	Item Title	ACTION
175/10	Apologies	
	Mark Boyce, Pat Culley and Sam Hoad sent their apologies	
176/10	Declaration of Interest	
	Ian Ellis (Furniture Recycling Project Gloucester Docks), Mary Smith (Gloucester City Council, Planning) and James Dorer (Gloucestershire County Council Blackfriars)	
177/10	Minutes of the previous Joint Business and Residents & Residents Forums meeting held 23rd November 2009	
	Agreed.	
163/09	Matters Arising	
	<p>71/09: MW reported that the County Council-led public consultation for the Local Transport Plan 3 (Including the Elmbridge Transport Major Scheme) had commenced, with a series of events across the county of which the Gloucester event took place 25th January, also videos available on Youtube for the public to view. The public have the opportunity to view the live presentation material and comment on the proposals on the Gloucestershire County Council website www.gloucestershire.gov.uk >> 'Travel and Transport' >> 'Talking Transport (Consultation on LTP3)'].</p> <p>BL commented that the workshops being held by the County Council were a highly effective method of consultation and that there was a real feeling that the public were making a positive contribution through this.</p>	

	<p>73/09: CFO reported that, following feedback from the last meeting, there was a feeling from some forum members that Gloucester Works were not doing enough to target the most deprived and 'hard to reach' communities in the City in terms of addressing unemployment levels. This has been discussed at the last URC Board.</p> <p>CFO reported that Gloucester Works had held two employment fair events at Kingsholm Stadium to offer walk-up advice and support.</p> <p>CFO further reported that Ahmed Goga had agreed to set up recruitment workshops (Job Hubs) in Barton & Tredworth, Podsmead and other wards across the city to address the problems of employment within these communities.</p> <p>75/09: MW stated that the URC have made an active effort in recent weeks to create more outreach into neighbourhood groups, following encouragement at the last meeting to establish links with neighbourhood partnerships.</p> <p>MW reported that himself and Sam Hoad had attended a meeting with the Chairs of the neighbourhood partnerships at the City Council offices and had attended two further networking events in the past week.</p> <p>CFO reported that GHURC are now half way through a major marketing campaign to highlight the Changing City through a series of 'Before & After' photos of the development sites within the GHURC's Magnificent Seven areas.</p> <p>CFO also reported that the URC have agreed to produce a glossary of terms, following concern that too many acronyms were being used where not all forum members were familiar with them.</p>	
179/10	<p>Feedback from the Board Meeting 27th November 2009</p>	
	<p>DB provided a briefing on feedback from the last GHURC Board Meeting:</p> <p>Greyfriars</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The board highlighted concerns over the width of the thoroughfare proposed from Brunswick Road to Southgate Street; • There was also concern over the direction of sun light falling on public spaces and private housing creating areas of little or no direct sunlight; • The board highlighted the importance of choosing a suitable palette of materials for the scheme; • There was some concern over the level of 'affordable housing' within the scheme. <p>Local Transport Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DB further raised the issue of lift provision for disabled access to Platform 4 at Gloucester Railway Station and was told by John Seddon (County Council) that funds may be available as part of the LTP3 for this upgrade to the station. DB was surprised and pleased at 	

	<p>this comment; however, he raised concerns that the improvement was not being made by the station owners, Network Rail.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The board agreed to fully participate in the consultation programme for the LTP3. • The board also agreed to support the redoubling of the railway line between Kemble and Swindon • Railway Triangle; the Board were advised that further discussions were due to take place with Allstones regarding a potential landswap. 	
180/10	Review of Residents & Community Forum Protocol / Membership	
	<p>MW tabled the proposed final revision of operational protocols for the meeting.</p> <p>MW highlighted that attendance of the meeting by the Community Ambassadors is an issue and that certain Ambassadors have expressed their opinion that it is too much to expect to attend these meetings as well as Steering Groups.</p> <p>SP commented that the group should bear in mind that the Community Ambassadors are volunteers and that not too much should be expected of them. DB commented that Community Ambassadors were originally asked to attend either the Business Forum or Residents & Community Forum and that they should be dedicated to one meeting only. However, MW reiterated that each Community Ambassador has been dedicated to a particular meeting already.</p> <p>PL expressed concern that some members had never been seen and MS suggested that it may be a good idea to ask each member on an individual basis if they would like to raise anything at the forum, where members cannot attend for whatever reason.</p> <p>CFO reported that the ongoing role of the Community Ambassadors would be covered in a presentation by Sam Hoad at the next meeting.</p> <p>MW reported that it was previously agreed by the forum that the minimum attendance for continued membership would be 66%; however, that the minimum level of attendance for the Business Forum is only 50%. MW asked the forum whether they would like to review the requirement for 66% attendance and bring it down to 50%, in line with the Business Forum.</p> <p>The forum agreed that the minimum attendance be retained at 66%, but it is at the discretion of the Chair to decide on action where attendance falls below 66% and there are mitigating circumstances.</p> <p>The forum operating protocols were therefore agreed by the forum.</p>	SH
181/10	Main Board Agenda Items	
	<p>372/10 – Greater Blackfriars – Update on the proposed Language Immersion Centre</p> <p>CFO initially updated the group on the latest news regarding funding and</p>	

property acquisitions in the Greater Blackfriars area:

- An extra £4million has been committed to the scheme this financial year;
- £1.5million has been committed by the South West RDA for building works to the Blackfriars Priory North Range and English Heritage has committed a further £400,000 to this;
- The South West RDA have also indicated that they are prepared to proceed with negotiations for acquisition of key properties in the Blackfriars area – in particular the BT-owned land;
- Gloucestershire Constabulary are in continued negotiations with the South West RDA to build a new police station on the Barbican site and discussions are at an advanced stage;
- There are ongoing discussions with a hotel developer who has shown interest in developing the Barbican site, and also developing the Fleece into a 'boutique' hotel;
- There is also interest from the YMCA to develop the Fleece Hotel into a 'backpackers' hostel;
- RO has been in discussions with Central Networks over a possible land-swap arrangement between them and the South West RDA to provide road access to the proposed new Barbican multi-storey car park from Commercial Road;
- It is hopeful that the County Council will relocate their offices longer term.

MS raised a note of caution over the design quality of the new police station building, particularly in the context of the Priory buildings. However, CFO reassured the group that the police have indicated that they are aware of these concerns and will be looking to build a building of high architectural quality. CFO also reported that the current police station on Longsmith Street would be demolished as a result of this development.

RO presented the latest design proposals for the Languages Immersion Centre, outlining the proposals in the context of the agreed masterplan for Blackfriars and the linking in to the historical buildings in the Priory complex.

- The DCSF (Department for Children, Schools and Families) funding of £5million is for a Languages Immersion Centre only, and they are not prepared to fund the access of historical buildings;
- English Heritage and the South West RDA have therefore issued grant aid to allow the whole complex to come back into regular use and to create links between the new building and the North and East Ranges, and possibly the South Range of the Priory;
- There is a proposed public access route to the Priory cloister from Commercial Road; however, there are questions over the impact of this on the Commercial Road streetscape and the design issues associated with historical access to cloisters;
- The Languages Immersion Centre will initially teach Mandarin, where students are literally 'immersed' in the language through door signs, menus, books, etc;
- The language diploma is hoped to be available from September 2011, when the building will be operational, and work is due to finish on site in December 2011;
- A communal toilet and commercial block will serve the whole priory

	<p>complex; however, the commercial space has not yet been earmarked for a particular use. It is possible that this commercial space could be used as a historical interpretation space;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is the opportunity for functions in the North Range, and English Heritage are preparing a 'prospectus' to market this to potential operators; • The operators originally were to be the University of Gloucestershire; however, they pulled out and 'Aspire' (the organisation who operate GL1 Leisure Centre) and the City Council have expressed an interest in taking on the operation of the North Range; <p>JD reported that the planning application for the scheme was anticipated to be submitted in March, and that the priority is now the elevational design of the building, to fully fit into its historical context.</p> <p>JD further commented that it is hoped that the building will have high environmental standards.</p> <p>DB questioned who the intended operator of the Languages Centre would be. JD reported that a new company would be set up to run the centre and that the aim is to get local schools to buy places for courses. JD also stated that one aim is to attract children from abroad to use the centre, especially as this is quite a unique and exemplar scheme.</p> <p>BLe questioned how many students the centre could accommodate at once, and JD stated that it would be around 30 students.</p> <p>IE raised concern over the surrounding environment of Commercial Road and its suitability as an environment for children. However, CFO stated that it is hoped that the Economic Linkages work will encourage businesses to invest in their premises in the Kimbrose Triangle area, which will dramatically improve the surrounding environment.</p> <p>JP encouraged the concept of an Interpretation Centre and stated that this would allow for greater appreciation of Gloucester's currently hidden historical assets, which should be celebrated. MS seconded this and stated that historical interpretation should be linked to the opening up of historical buildings which are currently inaccessible to the public.</p> <p>RO also reported that the City Council's Community Archaeologist (Lisa Donel) had led the 'Building Recording' of the Clutch Clinic, which had attracted over 20 volunteers. He also reported that the site was open to view on lunchtimes for the general public while archaeological excavations were taking place.</p> <p>The forum commended the design so far and expressed their delight that the building was being designed with the historical context firmly in mind.</p>	
	<p>373/10 Programme Performance Update</p> <p>CFO provided the forum with an update on URC development programmes:</p>	

- **Economic linkages:** The construction works in the Docks estate are now underway with contractors on site, and the contract for the Kimbrose Triangle element of the linkages has now been awarded. The County Council have decided upon Forest of Dean stone as the surface material for the Kimbrose Triangle/Lower Southgate Street improvements;
- **Bakers Quay:** It is hoped that the planning application for the development will go to the City Council Planning Committee in February, and there is confidence from all parties that it will be approved;
- **Canal Corridor:** There will be 150 new homes completed at Monk Meadow Quay at St Oswalds Park by the end of April;
- **Greyfriars:** Linden Homes are aiming to submit the planning application for the scheme by the end of March;
- **Kings Quarter:** The City Council hope to formally announce the development partner for the scheme at the end of April, following the EU regulated procurement process for developer selection;
- **Railway Triangle:** Discussions are ongoing with Allstones as to possible options for relocation away from the current site. The current option being explored is a land swap agreement to enable them to move within the Northern Triangle, north of Metz Way. However, if a solution for relocation can not be found, the City Council will need to be satisfied that all effects of air and noise quality from Allstones on proposed housing can be mitigated;
- **Public Art:** The URC have appointed 'Ginkgo' (public art consultants) to manage the public art programme that the URC is undertaking. The URC, in conjunction with Ginkgo, will shortlist 6 or 7 artists to submit tenders for pieces at Kimbrose Triangle, with 1 or 2 being selected to provide art pieces. The public art for the docks estate has already been selected.

CFO brought the forum's attention to the outputs forecast up to December 2009. He stated that the new Gloucestershire College had fallen under commercial floorspace figures for technical reasons, and that was the reason for higher-than-expected figure. He also stated that the most disappointing thing so far was that the housing outputs were slipping behind in mainly due to market conditions.

BLe questioned whether the 159% stated retail floorspace forecast represented built or occupied floorspace. CFO explained that this was mainly occupied space and despite this figure being high in its context, it was still very important for the primary retail scheme (Kings Quarter) to be delivered, and that this was high on the priority list.

374/10 Marketing Gloucester – Update

CFO reported that he was awaiting a presentation by Graham Walker of Marketing Gloucester to update the URC on recent progress and activities; however, the indications were that they were doing 'okay' in terms of organising events, despite a perceived 'hiccup' over Christmas. He did report however that there was a general feeling that they were not doing enough to

	<p>market the City regionally and nationally, and that this should be done in the form of a strong branding campaign.</p> <p>CFO did state, however, that there is a possible issue with staffing levels at Marketing Gloucester which has limited their activities in terms of marketing.</p> <p>MS stated the need for Marketing Gloucester to take responsibility in keeping Gloucester's residents informed of what events are taken place in the City.</p>	
	<p>376/10 Community Regeneration Protocol</p> <p>CFO introduced the Community Regeneration Protocol paper in stating that there is a need for the URC to draw in on the softer – people side of the regeneration programme. CFO further stated that there is a need for partner organisations in regeneration to agree targets in terms of contributing to the improvement of employment levels, crime prevention, health, etc.</p> <p>MW stated that the report outlines the baseline data in terms of employment levels, health problems, crime levels and promotes a model by which partner organisations can 'add value' to the URC's physical regeneration programmes by agreeing targets to address such problems.</p> <p>BLE commended the URC on an 'extraordinary piece of work' and stated that the paper is extremely helpful in allowing everybody in the community to know what their level of responsibility is in terms of addressing such social problems.</p> <p>DB endorsed BLE's comments and further commented that it was a very good source of information. However, DB expressed concern that the Podsmead ward has 'slipped behind' in terms of employment levels and crime, and that Gloucester has the second highest crime rate in the region behind Bristol. MW stated that this was more of a sign that other wards had progressed and improved, and MS highlighted that 'someone had to be last'.</p> <p>MS reiterated the above comments and stated that it was a good report. She did state, however, that it would be useful to see trends for crime and employment over a longer period and that this should be considered as part of future reports to gauge progress, perhaps in a graphical format.</p> <p>CFO stated that an independent consultant would be appointed to measure the success of the URC in community regeneration, to form part of the URC's overall mid-term review.</p> <p>IE stated the need to be more specific in detailing ward areas in order to fully understand the locality of social statistics.</p> <p>BLE reminded the members of the forum that crime figures for certain wards may not properly reflect on that ward, given that certain wards have high levels of crime which originate from people from other wards.</p> <p>PL raised concern that more should be done by Gloucester Works to address employment levels in deprived communities. However, CFO stated that Ahmed Goga is actively using this report to devise a plan of action for</p>	

	targeting key areas.	
182/10	Any Other Business	
	<p>JP wished to raise that the Kingsholm & Wotton Community Partnership are on the verge of opening, and that they are currently on the look out for office furniture for their community facility.</p> <p>MW encouraged the forum to visit the URC website (www.gloucesterurc.co.uk) to take a look at the 'Before & After' feature being currently ran by the URC, including a competition for matching the images of URC areas before development to images of the area after development. Prizes of £100 shopping vouchers are available for the winners.</p>	
	Dates of Future Meetings	
	Wednesday 24 th March 2010 – 5.30PM – GAVCA, 75/81 Eastgate Street	

Author: Paul Erskine